

AMENDMENT

In the Claims

Please rewrite claim 26 as follows. A marked-up copy of the claim as amended is attached pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(c):

26. (rewritten) A method of determining interest in a stock among users of an electronic stock trading system which includes user stations for entering orders and at least one computer and associated computer memory for matching orders and executing trades, comprising the steps of:

a user at a user station selecting users from among other users of the system to which the user wants to transmit an indicator-of-interest (IOI) in a stock; and

the system transmitting the IOI to the selected users only when the user enters an order at the user station for the stock.

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 29 are pending in the application. Claims are rejected under 35 USC § 112 and 35 USC § 103. The rejection of the claims is respectfully traversed as explained below.

The Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

At paragraph 3 of the Remarks the Examiner has rejected claims 9 - 15 under 35 USC 112 as assertedly indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse. As disclosed at page 3, line 24 – page 4, line 6 (and elsewhere) in the specification, an order originating inside the system is referred to as a hidden order, and may be contrasted with an order that originates outside the system, which is referred to as a public order. Thus the use of the term “hidden order” in